

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (IN PROGRAMME ORDER)



### **Marina Larios**

**President of WiTEC (European Association for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology based in 14 member states) and Director of Inova Consultancy**

Marina Larios is President of WiTEC (European Association for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology based in 14 member states) and Director of Inova Consultancy, a Sheffield based organisation providing consultancy services in the area of diversity, equal opportunities, entrepreneurship and mentoring. Marina has been a speaker at various international conferences presenting positive actions to increase the representation of female entrepreneurs and women in SET including recent presentations at the United Nations in New York and OECD in Geneva.

Marina is currently an advisor for the Cambridge Centre of Gender Studies, a consultant expert in European project management and evaluator of national and EU initiatives. In addition she is a member of Sheffield First Board; Co-Founder of SYFEN (South Yorkshire Female Entrepreneurs Network); ex-Trustee of the South Yorkshire Women's Development Trust; Co- Director of MEXWII- Mexican Women Inventors and Innovators; Steering Group member of the BME Forum at the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Co-Founder of the International Taskforce-Global Women in ICT launched at UNESCO, Paris. Marina is leading Sheffield's role in ORBITA, the global programme for women entrepreneurs.

Marina was nominated for the "Businesswomen of the Year" Award 2007 –Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and was recognised under the award of Enterprise Champion by SFEDI (Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative) in April 2008 for her work with female business owners and pre-starts.



### **Andy Curtis**

**Assistant Director – Innovation, Creative Sheffield**

Specialising in the field of technology transfer and commercialisation in public and private sectors. Andy joined Creative Sheffield when the company was formed in May 2007, building new capacities in innovation and the knowledge economy and regional economic development to create a comprehensive and effective platform to transform Sheffield's economy.

With an industry focus on Creative and Digital Industries, Andy has run and consulted on numerous projects in the North of England working with local government, business and educational institutions. Previously he worked in Studio and Production Management in the television and film industry with Nickelodeon UK, BSkyB, and Granada TV in London and Manchester.

Andy was born in Sheffield and has grown up alongside the emerging Sheffield based Creative and Digital economy and has worked in Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter for many years. At Creative Sheffield he is developing the next stage of CDI industry growth and the "Digital Square Mile" concept. As an active practitioner he is also a qualified photographer and a production director for the UK's largest Adventure Film festival.



**Julie Kenny**  
**CBE DL, Managing Director of Pyronix Limited of Rotherham**

Julie Kenny is Managing Director and major shareholder of award winning Pyronix Limited, which she founded in 1986. Based in Rotherham, South Yorkshire Pyronix manufactures an extensive range of electronic security equipment for intruder alarms. Right from the start, there was a keen focus on innovation and quality that enabled the company to obtain an initial foothold in the market place. The company now exports more than 50% of its annual turnover to 65 countries around the world.

For the last 15 years, Julie has been involved in serving the business community and is currently Board Member of Creative Sheffield, Yorkshire Forward and the Small Business Forum (which advises national Government about the needs of small businesses); is a member of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills; and is also a Director of the British Security Industry Association and Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce.

In recognition of her contribution to the region's business and industry, Julie was awarded a CBE in the 2002 New Year's Honours' List.

During 2005 Julie was appointed as Deputy Lieutenant for South Yorkshire and in 2006 was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate from Sheffield Hallam University.

Julie had a successful career as a litigation lawyer both in local authorities and in private practice before changing direction and founding Pyronix.



**Panni Poh Yoke Loh**  
**Artist, Director of Kutien Arts**

Panni Poh Yoke Loh, is a British Chinese Artist who works passionately with spirit, culture and location creatively connecting people from diverse cultural backgrounds with each other and their environment. She has worked as a qualified Senior Social Worker (BA Applied Social Studies and CQSW) and Teacher (PGCE/PCET). She set up and has been managing Kutien Arts since 2003. Kutien Arts sells original photography, paintings and creative training for businesses, organisations and community groups. It also delivers live art and installations for gallery and commercial spaces.

Currently she is completing her PhD on 'The Impact of cultural experiences on the work of British Chinese Artists-relationships with the natural world and spirituality' at the Social and Environmental Art Research Centre (SEA), Manchester Metropolitan University. She has an M.A. in Art as Environment and has delivered international conference papers in Spain, South Korea, China and Australia. As an artist she has exhibited in Australia, China, Japan, Thailand and South Korea. Her artist residencies at the U.K. Chinese Arts Centre and the 2006 Japanese Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale focused on the natural world and interactions between humans. Her work is the permanent collections of the Irish Embassy, London and Sheffield Libraries. As the U.K. member of the International Women Artists Council, since 1999, she organized the 2002 'International Women's Art Towards a Sustainable Environment' conference and exhibition with participants from 9 countries and other associated international events (1999-2007).

In 2008 she was awarded the Athena Honouree award for leadership. In 2007 she was awarded the Lord Mayor of Sheffield Woman of Inspiration Award-Entertainment and the Arts following the 'Community Cohesion' award from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2004 for initiating and organizing the Abbeyfield Park Multicultural Festival with an attendance of 12,000.



**Deborah Adshead**  
**Co-Director of JD Approach**

Along with her friend and now business partner Jessica Zeun, Deborah Adshead is joint owner of JD Approach Ltd, an IT company she formed in July 2005, which was awarded Highly Commendable in the Rotherham Chamber of Commerce business awards in 2007. The company specialise in creating websites, databases and web-based systems and offers IT training in many different software packages. JD Approach has recently become the first Prodigy Platinum Learning Partner in Sheffield, qualified and authorised to deliver Microsoft Business Certifications, Adobe and IC3 qualifications, to commercial organisations.

A Microsoft Master Instructor, Deborah is also a qualified systems analyst, with a first class Bachelor's degree in Business Information Systems and over 20 years experience of using, teaching, developing and designing software, both in the UK and abroad. She is currently studying for an MSc in IT and Management at Sheffield Hallam University where she also works part time as an Associate Lecturer.

Passionate about education, Deborah is a Regional Language Network school champion and is involved with educational initiatives to promote IT and business related activities within schools, such as Investors in Education, BiG – Make it Your Business and Rotherham Ready. She is a member of the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology and sees her personal mission as encouraging as many women as possible to use technology more and to work in the industry.

Deborah is also a board member of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce Inspiring Women business group and a Women's Enterprise Ambassador.



**Katey Felton**  
**Silver artist**

Originally from Skegness in Lincolnshire, Katey first studied Art & Design at Lincoln De Montfort University. After earning herself a BA(Hons) Degree in Three Dimensional Design at Manchester Metropolitan University she moved on to gain an MA in Silversmithing from the University of Central England in Birmingham. On finishing her studies Katey moved to Sheffield where she is now working from the award winning Persistence Works building, the UK's largest purpose-built studio complex. Here she completed a two year Silversmithing Starter Studio Programme and now runs her own successful silversmithing business.

The inspiration for Katey's silverware derives from her strong interest in the creases found in natural forms such as shells, fruits and skin. Her works reflect the flowing curves and seductive forms that are pleasing to the eye. Katey produces a range of elegant products working predominantly in Britannia silver. Katey has several awards to her name, the most recent ones promoting her excellence were given to her by the Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Council in 2007 and 2008 for her high standards of excellence in the technique of chasing.

Recent commissions include corporate silverware for the G8 Summit on behalf of the Home Office and Sheffield City Council, a piece for 'The Guardians of the standard of wrought plate within the town of Sheffield' on behalf of Sheffield Assay Office and an elegant trophy for Sheffield's Cavendish Centre. In her latest commission Katey has designed and made the next punch cup for the Millennium Punch Bowl. This significant collection, commissioned by Sheffield Assay Office, is housed in the Metalwork Gallery at the Millennium Gallery in Sheffield. Katey will be exhibiting her work at this year's Goldsmiths' Fair in London from 22nd-28th September and will also be showing her work as part of Sheffield's Galvanize festival.



**Chrissie Bedwin**  
**Business Coach and Consultant**

Chrissie Bedwin is a business coach and consultant. She founded Bedwin Consultant Ltd in 1997, following a management career in the voluntary and public sectors. Aim High, the coaching arm of the business, was set up in 2006. As a consultant and coach, Chrissie has worked extensively in the private and not for profit sectors, with clients ranging from FTSE 100 companies to SMEs, owner-managers and boards of local charities. She has qualifications in management, coaching and Neuro Linguistic Programming, and is a skilled and experienced facilitator.

As well as her regular consultancy and coaching, Chrissie is a non-executive director with Home, one of the largest providers of social housing in the country, with over 52,000 homes. She has worked as a facilitator with boards of other housing providers, establishing their vision, goals and strategic plans. Recently, Chrissie helped run a pilot course at the University of Derby for prospective board members of housing associations.

Chrissie works with Inova as a mentor for women starting up or growing their businesses, a role she particularly enjoys. She is a member of the Institute of Business Consulting (part of the Chartered Management Institute), and is an active member of the Association for Coaching, organising events in the east midlands to actively advance education and best practice in Coaching.



**Cllr. Sylvia Anginotti**  
**Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise**

Sylvia was born and bred in Sheffield. An 11 plus failure she attended Chaucer comprehensive school, which she left when she was 16 with a handful of RSA certificates. It wasn't until many years later that she was diagnosed as being dyslexic.

She started work at Sheffield University as a laboratory technician. After marriage and two children she found being a housewife wasn't sufficiently challenging and went to non-vocational classes at her local adult education centre. This re-contact with the education system encouraged her to go back into education.

At the age of 31 she enrolled on a Sheffield University mature access course and at age 33 enrolled as a full time student. Three years later she graduated with a BA Honours in History.

After graduation Sylvia started work as a part time lecturer at Sheffield College. Being strapped for cash she did what women classically do. She became an entrepreneur. She set up and ran a number of micro business projects. These included a tracing your ancestor's scheme and driving Japanese students around Britain after first qualifying as a community transport driver.

She became a full time lecturer and then a learning centre manger. She was first elected as a Sheffield Liberal Democrat councillor in 1994. She was Cabinet member for Education for three years and now she is Cabinet member for Employment and Enterprise.

She is a member of the South Yorkshire Police Authority and she chairs the largest Refugee organisation in the North of England. She is also a qualified hypnotherapist